



# Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1 JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2009

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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- 250th Heritage Coins still available!- Page 2
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*Stephens City Newsletter* is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens, to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

**Phone:** 869-3087 **Fax:** 869-6166 **Police:** 868-1012 **Website:** [www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov](http://www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov)

### *A Message from the Mayor*

By this time, 2009 is upon us and the 250<sup>th</sup> year of the Town of Stephens City will have closed. As you know, many events were held to celebrate the Town's anniversary. Many of you attended and participated in these events and I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your involvement. In addition to the joyous celebrations, many valuable lessons were learned through recounting and review of our history. Stephens City will stand as a part of the fabric of this county and Commonwealth for many more years to come. I believe that we have established a standard for anniversary celebrations for future years. Again, thank you all very much for making this year of celebration a success.

The New Year will bring many new challenges for our Town because of the current economic problems the nation is facing. The greatest of these will be addressing the necessity of upgrading and expanding of our wastewater treatment capacity. The Town has been preparing for this need for several years; however it will still be a very large issue to deal with. Revenue short-falls and cuts so far have not drastically affected the operating budgets. These are capital improvements that would have been funded through impact fees or proffers derived from new development that are not moving forward. I am confident the Town is in a strong condition and that we will weather the storm.

The council has also approved implementing the permanent auto decal effective this year. As you are well aware, each year personal property taxes have to be paid on each vehicle and a decal purchased and displayed on each vehicle. To the vast majority of you the permanent decal is a convenience and simply eliminates the sometimes difficult chore of replacing it each year. The few that may be late purchasing the new decal may have a problem or those that try not to pay their personal property tax and purchase the decal will have a problem with this new arrangement. In conjunction with the Division of Motor Vehicles program, a stop order on issuance of license renewal will be put in place when personal property taxes have not been paid on a vehicle and a decal not purchased for that vehicle. In other words these folks will not be able to renew their state motor vehicle licenses if the taxes are not paid and have not purchased a Town decal. There will be an additional fee incurred by the resident if this action is taken. Please do not take this as an arrogant assertion but more of an effort to get the word out about a new arrangement to hopefully avoid any difficult or embarrassing situations.

Here is wishing each and all a happier and better New Year in 2009.

*Mayor Ray Ewing*



*Recycled Christmas*

*Trees will be picked*

*up on Wednesday,*

*January 7th and 14th,*

*2009*

## SNOW REMOVAL

The almanac says there will be a lot of snow this winter, so in short this is what is required by the Town Code.

Property owners or occupants must clear all public sidewalks of snow where sidewalks front their property.

This must be done within 6 hours after snow has ceased to fall or no later than noon the next day if snowfall stops overnight. Please contact the Town Office if you have any questions.

## From the Town Manager's Desk...

### *250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wrap-Up*

Here it is the end of December 2008 which marks an end to the Town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. There is a lot to be thankful for as we look back. There is a lot to look forward to as well, because we know we live in the greatest nation in the world. Stephens City has been here for a long, long time. Our history parallels our nation's history in both the good and trying times and has endured.

We are grateful for our citizens, organizations and businesses who put forth

their best efforts this past year to help celebrate the Town's heritage. The Stephens City Garden Club helped to beautify the Town with flowers and plantings along Main Street and around the welcome signs at the entrances to the Town. They also helped to host several of the lectures about historical events throughout the year. The Newtown Heritage Festival folks worked hard to make this year's Memorial Day weekend event one of the best. Who can forget the fireworks that climaxed the festival this year? We wish to give thanks to all our local businesses that made contributions in a year that was fiscally challenging.

## From the Town Manager's Desk (Continued)...

The Cruise In that was held in July sponsored by Clem's Garage and the Valley Cruisers at Newtown Commons was special this year with the cutting of the Town's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday cake and burying a 50-year time capsule. In August, Stephens City joined with other towns along Route 11 in the Valley Crawl, a fifty mile long yard sale that brought a huge crowd of people into Town leaving most of those who participated a little wealthier and others finding good bargains. October brought out the local spirit of our community with the Sherando High School homecoming parade on Main Street. Later in the same month, Founder's Day weekend was celebrated with some great entertainment at the Newtown Commons and special exhibits along Main Street including soap and candle making demonstrated by Mike and Ann Grim. Dennis Clem provided a display of wooden figurines by a local folk artist, the late Ed Ambrose. Several local homes and churches opened their doors for tours and we saw two local artists', Dot Henkle and Charles Pitcock, new work depicting town scenes and landscapes. A collection of prehistoric and historic artifacts found by local collectors was on display. The Northern Shenandoah Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia was actively excavating the 1700's Peter Stephens cabin site which was open to the public. The Newtown History Center took the lead with exhibits of Stephensburgh/Newtown memorabilia and published a book titled Images of Stephens City. In December, the "re-newly" formed Stephens City Business Association

***THERE ARE ONLY  
8 COMMERATIVE  
COINS LEFT.***

***Be sure to get your  
little piece of  
heritage celebrat-  
ing the 250th  
Anniversary of the  
Town!***

***ONLY \$10. First  
Come, First Serve.***



## Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing end **February 3, 2009** and are due upon receipt.

After **February 3, 2008** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **February 10, 2008** service will be discontinued for delinquency. A reconnect fee of **\$25** plus the full

amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

Just a reminder that for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or money order payments and payments can now be made online at the Town's website. Only Water/

Sewer bills can be paid using a Visa or MasterCard! If you pay a bill online after the due date, you will still be responsible for the 10% penalty and if the bill is paid after the shut off date, the \$25 reconnect fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection.

**Please do not put cash in the drop box!**

### From the Town Manager's Desk (Continued)...

sponsored Christmas on the Commons with activities in the afternoon ending with lighting festivities at the Newtown Commons.

As always the Town Council and Town staff worked very hard on all the Town's activities. Mayor Ewing's leadership and participation was steady even under the strain of the illness of his wife Mary, who we lost in September.

And for all those who participated throughout the year, we wish to again thank you for supporting your community!

*Here's to a Prosperous New Year!*

*Mike Kehoe*  
*Town Manager*

### Frozen Water Lines

Most of the time the first place to check for a frozen water line is an exposed drafty area beneath or within your home or business. Find and be aware of where the cutoff valve is within your home. **Do not open a water meter box** unless you have contacted the Town. Town water meters are insulated and not prone to freezing. If you have a problem with frozen water lines, during office hours you may call 540-869-3087, after hours contact 540-662-6162.

### Yard Waste Site

The Town's yard waste site is for leaves, brush, and garden waste only. **IT IS NOT A LANDFILL!** Persons caught dumping anything other than leaves, brush, and garden waste will be charged with illegal dumping and is punishable by law. If these rules are abused, the Town may be forced to close the site.

Sincerely, Town Administration

## The Planner's Corner...

### Resolutions...

Every year at this time we set forth our New Years Resolutions to get us on track to quit a bad habit or improve ourselves. If these resolutions worked half as great as they sound would we find ourselves making new resolutions the following year? Something to think about.

Personally I am no different, although I have taken to making goals for myself instead of resolutions and as I look ahead at upcoming year in Stephens City, I have done the same.

It is my personal goal as your Town Planner to continue to have an open door and take every opportunity to

assist any resident that may have questions about any related planning matter within the Town or even outside the Town. Furthermore, I intend to continue to grow our planning program within the Town.

Another point I try to follow when setting goals for the New Year is to intermix goals that are very attainable and goals that raise the bar high. For me personally this allows you success and yet keeps you pushing yourself to achieve the highest standards.

As you might have read through the Mayors Message and our Town Managers message we have had a lot to be thankful for in 2008 and yet we have some distinct challenges ahead of

us in 2009. In planning I will be working on a major rewrite of the Subdivision Ordinance with the Planning Commission and will be working on improving our Main Street Corridor.

2009 will bring us new challenges and adventures however by planning for it and setting goals for implementation we just might make all of our New Year Resolutions footprints for success!

Till the next newsletter, this is the Planner's Corner.

Brian Henshaw  
Town Planner

# Town Calendar of Events

## JANUARY

Jan.	1	<b>Town Office Closed– New Years Day</b>
Jan.	5	Special Planning Commission Meeting– 7:00pm
Jan.	6	<b>Town Council at 7:30pm</b>
Jan.	12	Personnel Committee meeting at 5:00pm
Jan.	15	Water/ Sewer meeting at 9:00 am Public Works meeting at 9:30 am
Jan.	20	Historic Preservation Committee at 7:30pm
Jan.	22	Newtown Heritage Festival Mtg. at 7:30pm
Jan.	26	Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm
Jan.	27	<b>Planning Commission at 7:30pm</b>
Jan.	28	Finance at 5:00pm



*\* All meetings subject to change without notice w/ the exception of the Town Council meeting.*

## FEBRUARY

Feb.	3	<b>Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm.</b> <b>Water/ Sewer Bills Due without penalty</b>
Feb.	4	<b>Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills</b>
Feb.	5	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.
Feb.	9	Personnel Committee at 5:00pm
Feb.	14	Valentine's Day
Feb.	17	Historic Preservation Committee at 7:30pm
Feb.	19	Water/ Sewer Meeting at 9:00am Public Works Meeting at 9:30am Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:30pm
Feb.	23	Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm
Feb.	24	<b>Planning Commission at 7:30pm</b>
Feb.	25	Finance Committee at 5:00pm



**We're on the web!**  
[www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov](http://www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov)

## The Business Spotlight!

*The Businesses of the Stephens City Business Association would like to wish all the residents of the Town of Stephens City a Happy New Year! We would also like to encourage everyone to include with their New Years Resolutions to **SHOP LOCALLY!** Everything you need is here locally and throughout this New Year we encourage you to take the opportunity to see all the great local shops, specialty stores, or local services for all of your needs!*

***We look forward to seeing you!***

